

# Su iyesi

In Turkic mythology, **Su Iyesi** (Tatar: *Су Иясе* or *Su İyäse*; Chuvash: *Шыв Иӹӹ*; Sakha: *Уу Иччи*; literally "water master") is a water spirit. It corresponds to the nymph in Turkic cultures. It is a disembodied, incorporeal, intangible entity, but she can turn into a female creature and daughter of Yer Tanrı. Sometimes the master of water is depicted in the form of a bull.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## Features

When angered, it breaks dams, washes away water mills,<sup>[2]</sup> and drowns people and animals. It drags people down to her underwater dwelling to serve her as slaves. It is in Tatar<sup>[3]</sup> fairy tales the same creature as the Su Anası ("water mother"). In Turkic tales, it lives in ponds or rivers. There is no mention of a particular dwelling, and the 'half-sunken log' is unapparent. It rides on a log to travel.

Su Iyesi is sometimes associated with perilous events such as floods, storms, shipwrecks and drownings. In other Turkic folk traditions, she can be benevolent or beneficent and also cause rain.<sup>[4]</sup>

It is believed that some powerful Su Iye, such as **Su Dedesi** can cause sickness. A disease called *Water Disease*, allegedly caused by him, appears as watery bubbles in the body of human. To get rid threw salt into river or fountains.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Su Ana

**Su Ana** ("water mother") is often mentioned as the female form of Su Iyesi. She is said to appear as a naked young woman with a fairy-like face and yellow and long hair, usually covered in black fish scales. She has a fish's tail and eyes that burn like fire. She usually rides along her river on a half-sunken log, making loud splashes. Local drownings are said to be the work of the Su Anası. She is the wife of Su Ata. She likes shores and likes to get out of the water.

## In Turkic languages

- Tuvan: *Сыз Ава*
- Uzbek: *Suv Ona* or *Suw Ona*
- Tatar: *Су Әни* or *Су Ана* or *Su Ana*
- Azerbaijani: *Su Ana*
- Kazakh: *Су Ана*
- Chuvash: *Шыв Анне* or *Шу Абай*
- Bashkir: *һыу Анай*
- Sakha: *Уу Ийэ*
- Turkmen: *Suw Ene* or *Suv Eje*
- Uyghur: *سۇ ئانا*
- Turkish: *Su Ana*
- Kyrgyz: *Сүү Эне*
- Altai: *Сүү Эне*
- Khakas: *Суҥ Ине* or *Суҥ Ичә*
- Karachay-Balkar: *Сүү Ана*
- Gagauz: *Su Ana*

Its name in Hungarian culture is *Víz Anya* and in Mongolian belief is *Ус Ээж* (Buryat: *Уһан Эхэ*; Oirat: *Усн Эк*). These entities have many similarities, and each name has the same meaning, "aqua mother".

## Su Ata

**Su Ata** ("water father") is the male form of Su Iyesi. He appears as an old man with a frog-like face, greenish beard, with his body covered in algae and muck. He has webbed paws instead of hands. He usually rides along his river. Consequently, he is often dubbed **Vudaş** (Chuvash: *Бымаш*, *Vutăş*) by the Chuvash people. He is a river and lake spirit. When someone has drowned, people often say "Su Ata took him." He also reportedly hates people who pollute the waters. The advice on how to please him goes that one should throw a whole bread into the water to make him happy. Also, when a bride must go far away, she has to be introduced to Su Ata. He usually appears in winter.<sup>[6]</sup>

## In Turkic languages

- Tuvan: *Сыз Ама*
- Uzbek: *Suv Ota* or *Suw Ota*
- Tatar: *Су Әту* / *Ama* or *Su Ata*
- Azerbaijani: *Su Ata*
- Kazakh: *Су Ама*
- Chuvash: *Шыв Амте* or *Шу Ашшӗ*
- Bashkir: *һыу Амай*
- Yakut: *Уу Аҕа*
- Turkmen: *Suw Ata* or *Suv Ata*
- Uyghur: *سۇ ئاتا*
- Turkish: *Su Ata*
- Ottoman Turkish: *سۇ آتا*
- Kyrgyz: *Сүү Ама*
- Altai: *Сүү Ада*
- Khakas: *Суҥ Аба* or *Суҥ Ада*
- Karachay-Balkar: *Сүү Ама*
- Gagauz: *Su Ata*

Its name in Hungarian culture is *Víz Atya* or *Víz Apa* and in Mongolian belief is *Ус Эцэг* (Buryat: *Уһан Эсэгэ*; Oirat: *Усн эцк*). These entities have many similarities, and each has the same meaning, "water father".

## Similar creatures

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- **Irmak iyesi** or **Öğüz (Öz) iyesi** is river spirit. It is one kind of Su Iyesi.
- **Çay iyesi** or **Dere iyesi** is spirit of creeks and rivulets. In Azerbaijani folklore, it is known as *çay nənəsi* ("creek grandmother").
- **Göl iyesi** is a lake spirit.

## See also

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- Vodyanoy

## References

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4. Yves Bonnefoy *Asian Mythologies University of Chicago Press* 1993 ISBN 978-0-226-06456-7 p. 333
5. Rasilya KARİMOVA *Tatar Mitolojisinde İyeler The Familier Spirits in Tatar Mythology* Kocaeli Üniversitesi 2016 E-ISSN: 2149-5459 p.885
6. Rasilya KARİMOVA *Tatar Mitolojisinde İyeler The Familier Spirits in Tatar Mythology* Kocaeli Üniversitesi 2016 E-ISSN: 2149-5459 p.887

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## External links

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- TURKMYTHOLOGY - Su İyesi (<http://turkmythology.blogspot.com/2009/02/su-iyesi-su-perisi-su-iyelerinin-hepsi.html>)

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